



## **Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office**

### **Progress in Vietnam as of July 4, 2008**

#### **Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War**

	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Laos</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>Total</u>
Original Missing	1,978	573	85	10	2,646
Repatriated and Identified	<u>630</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>889<sup>1</sup></u>
Remaining Missing	1,348	346	56	7	1,757

Of the remaining 1,348 Americans still unaccounted for in the country of Vietnam, 611 are in a “no further pursuit” status, meaning that as a result of rigorous investigation we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains.

#### **Repatriating and Identifying Remains**

- Prior to Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07), the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) conducted four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) per year in Vietnam for approximately 30 days each. Beginning in FY07, we began executing three JFAs per year each lasting approximately 45 days. This refinement allows improved operational effectiveness, increases workable days on-site, and provides greater flexibility during good weather windows.
- Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel plus their Vietnamese counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country.
- American remains are transferred to JPAC’s Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for positive identification by forensic anthropologists.
- The 91<sup>st</sup> JFA began March 1 and continued through April 14, 2008. Recovery teams excavated sites in Thanh Hoa, Kien Giang, Lang Son, and Quang Binh Provinces.
- The 92<sup>nd</sup> JFA began June 11 and will continue through July 25, 2008. Recovery teams are excavating sites in Quang Binh, Quang Ngai, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien-Hue Provinces.

#### **Resolving “Last Known Alive” Cases**

- Of the original 196 individuals “Last Known Alive” in Vietnam (those who might have survived their loss incidents, but did not return), DoD has determined the fate of 165, with 31 still unresolved.
- Of the 165 whose fate has been determined, the remains of 50 have been located and identified.
- Cambodia, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts met in Hanoi in November 2004 to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Cambodia – Vietnam border. A meeting with Laos, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Laos – Vietnam border took place in Vientiane in April 2005. We continue to pursue leads generated from the meetings.

#### **Research and Investigations**

- The U.S. continues to seek additional Vietnamese archival information. An effort in the Ministry of National Defense archives concluded last year. The results, while less than hoped for, confirmed that additional information is contained in Vietnamese archives. A DPMO team met with Vietnamese representatives in September and reached agreement on a follow-on program to access information in the archives.
- In addition to the interviews conducted during JFAs, U.S. and Vietnamese investigators have conducted nearly 300 oral history interviews of Vietnamese government and military officials, including General Vo Nguyen Giap.
- Since Vietnamese troops occupied portions of Cambodia and Laos during the War, we’ve asked them to cooperate in investigations there. Ninety-three 93 Vietnamese witnesses have participated in operations in Laos (79) and Cambodia (14); most of them have participated more than once.

---

<sup>1</sup>This number now includes the 63 Americans who were returned and/or identified from 1973 – 1975.